

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 ACDA-12 EUR-12 IO-13 AID-05 /116 W
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R 130822Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8992
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3048

VICTORIA FOR BEYER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, ET, US
SUBJ: AF/E DIRECTOR-DESIGNATE MEETING WITH ETHIOPIAN ACTING
FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY: ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER REPEATED TO VISITING AF/E
DIRECTOR-DESIGNATE ETHIOPIAN OPPOSITION TO ANY US MILITARY
RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA AS LONG AS THAT NEIGHBOR CONTINUES
ARMED INTERVENTION OF ANY KIND IN OGADEN. HE SEES RESTRAINING
INFLUENCE OF US ON ARAB CONSERVATIVES AS BEST WAY FOR US TO
WORK FOR IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE ALSO FEELS THAT
PROGRESS IS ALREADY BEING MADE ON ISSUE OF COOPERATION FOR
EXPROPRIATION FOREIGN ASSETS. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MAJOR DAWIT WOLDE GHIORGIS COVERED
FAMILIAR GROUND DURING HIS HOUR-LONG MEETING JULY 10 WITH AF/E
DIRECTOR-DESIGNATE BEYER AND CHARGE MATHERON. HE STRESSED
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ETHIOPIAN OPPOSITION TO ARMS MISSION TO SOMALI AND ARGUED
THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS NOT LIVING UP TO HIS COMMITMENT NOT
TO ARM SOMALIA AS LONG AS WAR CONTINUES IN OGADEN. HE WAS
CONVINCED US INTELLIGENCE IS FULLY AWARE OF PRESENCE OF SOMALI
REGULARS THERE. DISAPPOINTMENT WITH US IS ALL THE GREATER
BECAUSE MENGISTU HAD LIVED UP TO HIS "COMMITMENT TO SPECIAL
PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY DAVID AARON" AND INTERNATIONAL COMMU-

NITY NOT TO CROSS FRONTIERS INTO SOMALIA. HE AGAIN HUMMED OLD REFRAIN THAT SITUATION WOULD BE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT IN ETHIOPIA TODAY, HINTING AT NO CUBANS AND SOVIETS, IF ONLY US HAD NOT LET DOWN ITS OLD FRIEND ETHIOPIA BY WITHHOLDING ARMS AT TIME OF SOMALI INVASION. ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION HAD IN NO WAY HURT US INTERESTS IN ETHIOPIA, HE CLAIMED, BUT HAD BEEN BADLY MISUNDERSTOOD BY US GOVERNMENT AND MEDIA.

2. ON ERITREA, DAWIT SAID THAT ALL ATTEMPTS TO NEGOTIATE WITH SECESSIONISTS HAD FAILED TO DATE BUT THAT PMGSE WOULD CONTINUE TO TRY FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT NEVERTHELESS. REPEATING MENGISTU'S APPEAL TO AARON, HE AGAIN URGED USG TO USE ITS INFLUENCE ON ARAB FRIENDS TO STOP HELPING SECESSIONISTS. SUCH HELP HAD ALREADY INTERNATIONALIZED WAR. THIS IS BEST WAY TO SHOW US IS SERIOUS ABOUT DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. BEYER URGED PMGSE TO TAKE INITIATIVE IN PERSUADING SAUDIS--PERHAPS IN CORRIDORS AT UNGA SESSION--THAT ETHIOPIA, SOCIALIST OR NOT, CLEARLY PRESENTS NO THREAT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND OTHER CONSERVATIVE ARABS. FOR TIME BEING, IT WAS CLEAR THAT ERITREA IS A UNIFYING ELEMENT AMONG ARABS OF ALL POLITICAL CASTS. DAWIT FELT PREVIOUS ETHIOPIAN ATTEMPTS TO CONVINCE ARABS DIRECTLY HAD FAILED AND UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD AGAIN UNLESS USG PUT PRESSURE ON ITS FRIENDS. HE HAD TALKED PERSONALLY TO SUDANESE VP ABOUT ELIMINATING PRO-ERITREAN SECESSIONIST PROPAGANDA, BUT TO NO AVAIL. BEYER PROMISED TO DRAW ADMINISTRATION'S ATTENTION TO PMGSE VIEWS ON WHAT INFLUENCE

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USG MIGHT BRING TO BEAR ON SAUDIS AND EGYPTIANS.

3. BEYER HAD OPENED SUBSTANTIVE PART OF CONVERSATION WITH ASSURANCES THAT USG IS LOOKING FORWARD TO BETTER RELATIONS AS A RESULT OF HIGHER LEVEL OF COMMUNICATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT USG WOULD TRY TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO ETHIOPIAN SENSITIVITIES IN THE FUTURE. HE ASSURED DAWIT THAT USG ADMIRERD MANY ASPIRATIONS OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION, BUT THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS TRYING TO GET OUT OF ARMS BUSINESS AND IT DID NOT MAKE SENSE TO SUPPLY THEM TO EITHER SIDE IN OGADEN DISPUTE OR IN ERITREA. THEY WOULD ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO SENSELESS KILLING. WE UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, ETHIOPIA'S FEELING THAT IT HAD TO DEFEND ITSELF.

4. BEYER POINTED OUT THAT IT IS IN AREA OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AS WELL AS DISASTER RELIEF AND REHABILITATION THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION SEES THAT IT CAN BEST RESPOND TO ETHIOPIA'S GOALS. HOWEVER, IF ETHIOPIA IS SERIOUSLY INTERESTED IN SUCH ASSISTANCE, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD SOMEHOW DEMONSTRATE PROMPTLY THAT IT INTENDS TO NEGOTIATE COMPENSATION SETTLEMENTS. DAWIT TRIED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT ETHIOPIA WAS "ON THE MOVE" IN THIS REGARD BUT AGAIN STUCK TO OFFICIAL LINE THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD ONLY BE BETWEEN COM-

PENSATION COMMISSION AND INDIVIDUALS WHOSE ASSETS HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED.

5. ABOVE HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED WITH BEYER.

6. AS IS USUAL, DAWIT CONVENIENTLY--BUT ALWAYS CORDIALLY-- OMITTED THOSE CHAPTERS OF RECENT HISTORY WHICH DID NOT FIT HIS CASE, PARTICULARLY THAT HIS GOVT HAD THROWN OUT MAAG AND WAS CONTINUING TO HURL INSULTS AT CARTER ADMINISTRATION WHILE LOOKING TO US TO HELP ITS OLD FRIEND. HE EVEN HINTED THAT DELAY IN ARRIVAL OF AMBASSADOR WAS ENTIRELY FAULT OF US. HE DID PROMISE THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO FACILITATE AMBASSADOR'S ACCESS TO DIRG LEVEL OFFICIALS AS WELL AS IN THE MINISTRY ITSELF.
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, ET, US
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/42c77e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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